

IN THE CLAIMS

For the convenience of the Examiner, all claims have been presented whether or not an amendment has been made.

1. **(Previously Presented)** A method for making a molded container from a plastic resin, comprising:

contacting a plastic resin with an oxygen-depleted atmosphere;
heating the plastic resin to a temperature at which the plastic resin can be extruded;
extruding a quantity of the plastic resin into a mold;
blowing the plastic resin against the mold to form a molded container;
pressuring and flushing the molded container with an inert gas;
depressuring the molded container; and
releasing the molded container from the mold.

2. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 1, wherein contacting the plastic resin with an oxygen-depleted atmosphere occurs at a temperature between about 120°C and about 170°C.

3. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 1, wherein the oxygen-depleted atmosphere is substantially devoid of oxygen.

4. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 1 wherein the mold is maintained at a temperature between about 50°F and about 150°F.

5. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 1, wherein the inert gas is at or near ambient temperature.

6. **(Canceled)**

7. **(Previously Presented)** A method for making a molded container from a plastic resin, comprising:

extruding a quantity of a plastic resin into a mold;
blowing the plastic resin against the mold to form a molded container;
pressuring and flushing the molded container with an inert gas;
depressuring the molded container; and
releasing the molded container from the mold.

8. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 7, wherein the mold is maintained at a temperature between about 50°F and about 150°F.

9. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 7, wherein the inert gas is at a temperature below about 0°F.

10. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 7, wherein the inert gas is at a temperature below about -100°F.

11. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 7, wherein the inert gas is at or near ambient temperature.

12. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 7, wherein the plastic resin is blown against the mold using the inert gas.

13. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 7, wherein the inert gas comprises nitrogen, carbon dioxide, argon, or a chlorofluorocarbon.

14. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 7, wherein the plastic resin comprises polycarbonate, polyvinyl chloride, polyethylene, polypropylene, polystyrene, polyethylene terephthalate, polyethylene terephthalate glycol, a derivative thereof, or a copolymer thereof.

15. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 1, wherein the inert gas is at a temperature below about 0°F.

16. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 1, wherein the inert gas is at a temperature below about -100°F.

17. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 1, wherein the plastic resin is blown against the mold using the inert gas.

18. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 1, wherein the inert gas comprises nitrogen, carbon dioxide, argon, or a chlorofluorocarbon.

19. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 1, wherein the plastic resin comprises polycarbonate, polyvinyl chloride, polyethylene, polypropylene, polystyrene, polyethylene terephthalate, polyethylene terephthalate glycol, a derivative thereof, or a copolymer thereof.

20. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 1, wherein contacting a plastic resin with an oxygen-depleted atmosphere comprises drying the plastic resin in the oxygen-depleted atmosphere.

21. **(Withdrawn)** An extrusion blow pin, comprising:
an outer blow rod operable to supply a first gas used for blowing plastic resin against a mold to form a molded container; and
an inner blow rod operable to supply a second gas used for pressuring and flushing the molded container.

22. **(Previously Presented)** A method for making a molded container from a plastic resin, comprising:

contacting a plastic resin with a first inert gas to remove absorbed oxygen from the plastic resin prior to extrusion;

heating the plastic resin to a temperature at which the plastic resin can be extruded;

extruding a quantity of the plastic resin into a mold;

blowing the plastic resin against the mold to form a molded container;

pressuring and flushing the molded container with a second inert gas;

depressuring the molded container; and

releasing the molded container from the mold.

23. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 22, wherein contacting the plastic resin with the first inert gas occurs at a temperature between about 120°C and about 170°C.

24. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 22, wherein the first and second inert gases comprise nitrogen, carbon dioxide, argon, or a chlorofluorocarbon.

25. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 22, wherein the plastic resin comprises polycarbonate, polyvinyl chloride, polyethylene, polypropylene, polystyrene, polyethylene terephthalate, polyethylene terephthalate glycol, a derivative thereof, or a copolymer thereof.

26. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 22, wherein contacting a plastic resin with the first inert gas comprises drying the plastic resin.

27. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 22, wherein the first and second inert gases comprise the same inert gas.

28. **(Previously Presented)** A method for making a molded container from a plastic resin, comprising:

contacting a plastic resin with a first inert gas to remove absorbed oxygen from the plastic resin prior to extrusion;

extruding a quantity of a plastic resin into a mold;

blowing the plastic resin against the mold to form a molded container;

pressuring and flushing the molded container with a second inert gas;

depressuring the molded container; and

releasing the molded container from the mold.

29. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 28, wherein the first and second inert gases comprise nitrogen, carbon dioxide, argon, or a chlorofluorocarbon.

30. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 28, wherein the plastic resin comprises polycarbonate, polyvinyl chloride, polyethylene, polypropylene, polystyrene, polyethylene terephthalate, polyethylene terephthalate glycol, a derivative thereof, or a copolymer thereof.

31. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 28, wherein the first and second inert gases comprise the same inert gas.